



EXHIBIT ~~3~~ 6
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HB 83

A M E R I C A N A C A D E M Y O F P A I N M A N A G E M E N T

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January 24, 2011

Representative David Howard
Chair, House Human Services Committee
Montana House of Representatives
Helena, Montana

Dear Representative Howard and Members of the Committee:

The American Academy of Pain Management is the largest professional pain management organization in the country, representing over 5000 practitioners from a variety of disciplines, treating people with pain in all 50 states. Our members and diplomates range in background from physicians and dentists to pharmacists and psychologists. They are involved daily in efforts to help people suffering from chronic pain. The Academy since its inception in 1988 has recommended a multidisciplinary and multimodal team approach to the management of chronic pain associated with a variety of ailments. As such an organization, the Academy closely monitors public policy developments related to all aspects of pain management.

I am writing today in support of HB 83, "An Act Creating a Prescription Drug Registry". As is true of most members of the pain management community, members of the Academy are very concerned about the current state of affairs in our country with respect to the abuse of prescription medications, especially opioid analgesics. We believe that a balanced public policy approach that works to simultaneously restrict access to these medications for those who would abuse and/or divert them, while making them available to those who need them for treating pain, is ideal and achievable. We view prescription drug registries as one very important tool in achieving this kind of balanced public policy.

With a prescription drug registry, prescribers and dispensers can obtain records of their patients' prescriptions for controlled substances. With this record, they can see patterns of use that might be indicative of drug diversion and refuse to prescribe for those individuals; they can see patterns of use that might be indicative of drug abuse and refer those individuals for treatment; and they can see patterns that reassure them and allow them to prescribe confidently for people with pain. A prescription drug registry effectively makes prescribers and dispensers a front-line part of the solution to this complicated problem.

We strongly support passage of this legislation, and hope that you will consider our opinion as you debate this important bill. As the Academy's representative (and also as the chair of the Prescription Monitoring Program Advisory Committee for the Kansas Board of Pharmacy), I stand ready to discuss any concerns you might have about this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of service.

Sincerely,

Robert Twillman, Ph.D., FAPM

Robert Twillman, PhD, FAPM
Director of Policy and Advocacy
American Academy of Pain Management